

I am writing to oppose allowing further concentration of ownership in the broadcast media.

The media has an essential role to play in our democracy. A healthy democracy requires a robust dialog, spanning the full spectrum of viewpoints, and the full range of issues facing the people and their government. It is the media's role to provide the forum where these view and issues can be aired. Concentration of ownership is inherently inconsistent with that role.

It should be obvious that any one media organization will have its own agendas, in particular, the political positions of those in charge and the financial interests of the organization, its officers, and of organizations with which it has significant financial ties. It is only through having many such organizations, with (hopefully) divergent interests, that the full range of discourse can be achieved.

The broadcast spectrum provides ample room for such a diversity of voices, but only if all the voices don't emanate from just a handful of mouths.